

AKIRA

37

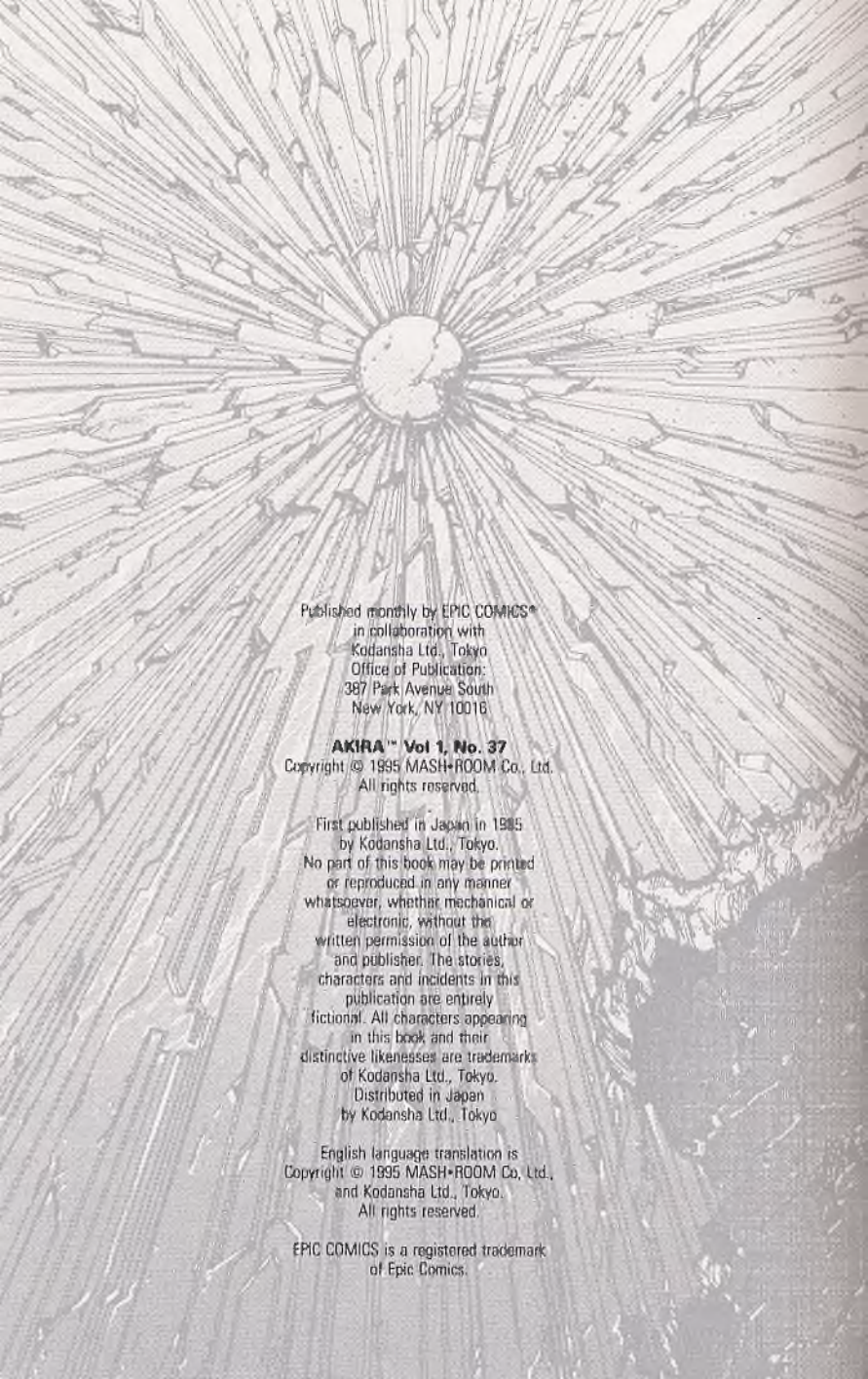
TM



EPIC COMICS • \$6.95 • \$9.75 CAN • VOL. 1, NO. 37



KATSUHIRO OTOMO



Published monthly by EPIC COMICS®
in collaboration with
Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo
Office of Publication:
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

AKIRA™ Vol 1, No. 37

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First published in Japan in 1985
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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 37

EVOLUTION

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, onetime leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization — led by a man known as the **Colonel** — and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**.

The Colonel had a number of psychic children under his control. Each one was identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** — Numbers 25 and 27. The blind **Lady Miyako** — Number 19 — now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, who lost his left arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's military satellite SOL, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate a prosthetic replacement. **Tetsuo** was Kaneda's dearest friend until he used his burgeoning powers to slaughter other members of their gang. Now, **Kaneda** is out for revenge.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28 — **Akira**, a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep almost forty years ago after he started the Third World War with a mental blast. **Akira** was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo**, and again he devastated the reconstructed city of Neo-Tokyo. Now Japan exists

in a state of emergency. The force of the army and the resistance are scattered and the military's formidable caretaker robots patrol the streets.

In the western part of Neo-Tokyo, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed — a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. Their headquarters is Neo-Tokyo's **Olympic Stadium**. To the east, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal psychic monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies and commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical armaments which take a tremendous toll on **Tetsuo's** forces.

A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay, poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists and one Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon — which they've codenamed **Juvenile A**. One of the scientists — **Stanley Simmons** — goes ashore to implement a secret plan. The research team is certain that using military force against **Akira** and **Tetsuo** can only lead to disaster. When the fleet sends fighter planes against **Tetsuo**, he uses a satellite to destroy their flag-

ship, forcing the surviving military personnel and scientists to flee.

Meanwhile, **Kay** joins Miyako's forces in battle against **Tetsuo**. **Kay** is a powerful medium, through whom the others can project their powers as one.

Kaneda teams up with **Kai** and **Joker** — a friend and rival from his gang days. Using salvaged weapons the trio lead a force of refugees and street rats to help **Kay** in her battle with **Tetsuo**. As they fight, **Akira** looks placidly on, drawn by the similarity of Tetsuo's powers to his own.

Tetsuo is griefstricken over the death of his gentle girlfriend, **Kaori**. He carries her body to the underground chamber where **Akira** once slept. **Akira** follows and is joined by **Kaneda**, **Joker**, **Chiyoko** and **Ryu**. They prepare to fight in the bowels of the earth, where many of their comrades died.

Tetsuo's powers have grown erratic. His body frequently bloats and expands, engulfing those who venture too close. For a moment, it seems that contact with **Kaneda** has restored Tetsuo's humanity. Then, Tetsuo's power comes surging back and **Kaneda** is drawn into his monstrous form, apparently consumed. As the battle rages, **Akira** becomes more alert. Terrified at what might occur if **Akira** awakens fully, **Ryu** panics. He draws a gun and shoots **Akira**, setting the boy's power free.

Seeking a new power source for himself, **Tetsuo** flies to Lady Miyako's shrine. **Kay** follows in hot pursuit. **Lady Miyako** instructs **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** to look after **Akira**, and the pair teleport away to help their friend. **Lady Miyako**, her followers, and **Kay** prepare to make a final stand against **Tetsuo**.

Kiyoko and **Masaru** meet **Akira** on the psychic plane. They are joined by the spirits of all the gifted children who have died before.

Telling **Kay** that the resolution depends on her, **Lady Miyako** heroically draws **Tetsuo** to herself and is killed. As she dies, she, too, is drawn to the spirit plane, where the souls of friends who have gone before await.

Kay is guided in battle by her late mentor's commands, and is able to break through to **Tetsuo**. His concentration interrupted, he is vulnerable, and is himself consumed by the force of Akira's mind.

Trapped within Tetsuo's soul, **Kaneda** experiences a fractured, kaleidoscopic journey through his late friend's life and hardships. He shares with **Tetsuo** both the good memories and the bad.

Kaneda is contacted by Lady Miyako's spirit, and is stunned by what she tells him. Although **Tetsuo** and **Akira** were created in laboratories, they, along with all the catastrophe they bring, are a vital part of mankind's evolution.



ONE VAST
FORCE WAS
RELEASED...

AND, IN
SEEKING ITS
ULTIMATE GOAL,
HAS FLOWED
THROUGHOUT THE
UNIVERSE.




THE
POWER
HAS
DISSIPATED
AND SPREAD
TO MANY
OUTLETS...
ITS SEEDS
LYING
DORMANT
IN THEIR
INDIVIDUAL
MEMORIES.



YOU
MEAN
THAT
TETGLIO
AND
AKIRA'S
POWER
IS
REALLY...?!



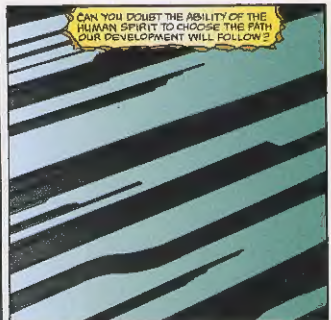
BUT
THEN
WHY'S IT
ALWAYS
SO DESTRUCTIVE?



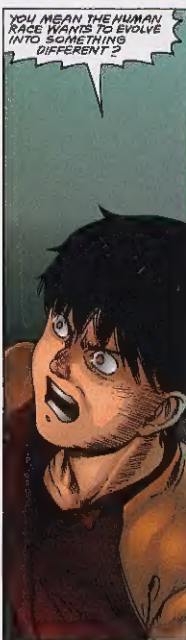
THE HARDSHIPS
AKIRA GENERATED
MAY BE MEANT
TO PROMOTE
HUMANITY'S
EVOLUTION...



WHAT THE HELL FOR?!
EVEN EVOLUTION IS
A PROGRAMMED
FLOW, ISN'T IT?!



CAN YOU DOUBT THE ABILITY OF THE
HUMAN SPIRIT TO CHOOSE THE PATH
OUR DEVELOPMENT WILL FOLLOW?!




YOU MEAN THE HUMAN
RACE WANTS TO EVOLVE
INTO SOMETHING
DIFFERENT?!



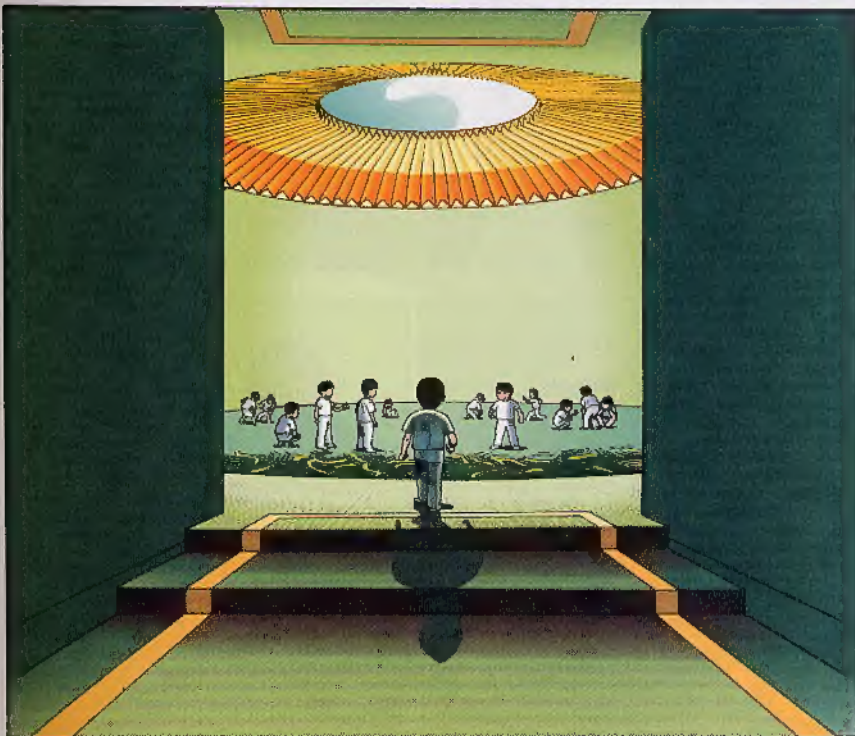
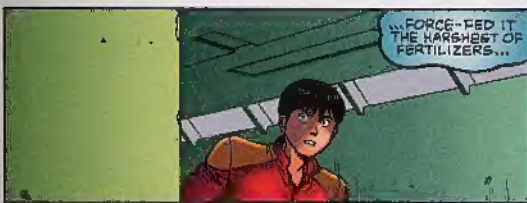
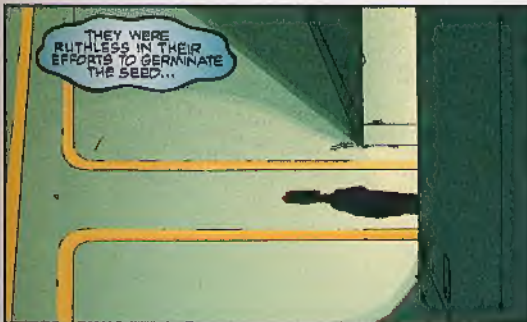
THE FRUITS
BEING DOWN
HERE...

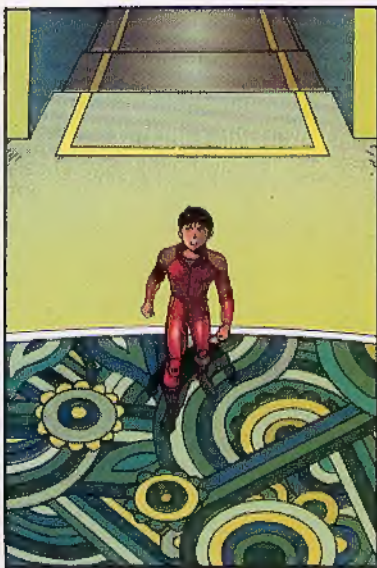
...WILL BE
HARVESTED BY YOUR
CHILDREN.



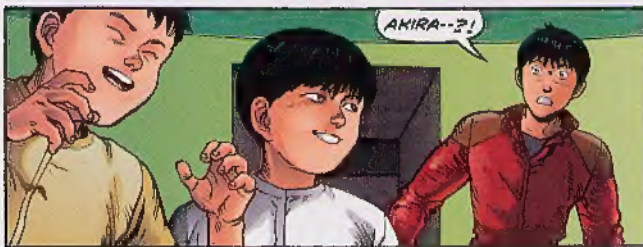
THAT IS TOTAL BULLSHIT!
YOU CAN'T TELL ME THAT
TETSUO AND THOSE
SHRIVELLED WHITE MUTANT
KIDS FROM THE LAB ARE
SOMETHING THE HUMAN
RACE WANTS TO BE!

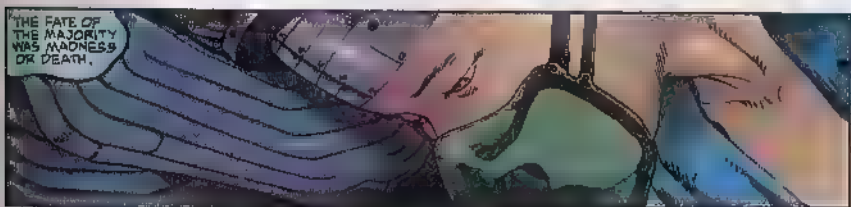
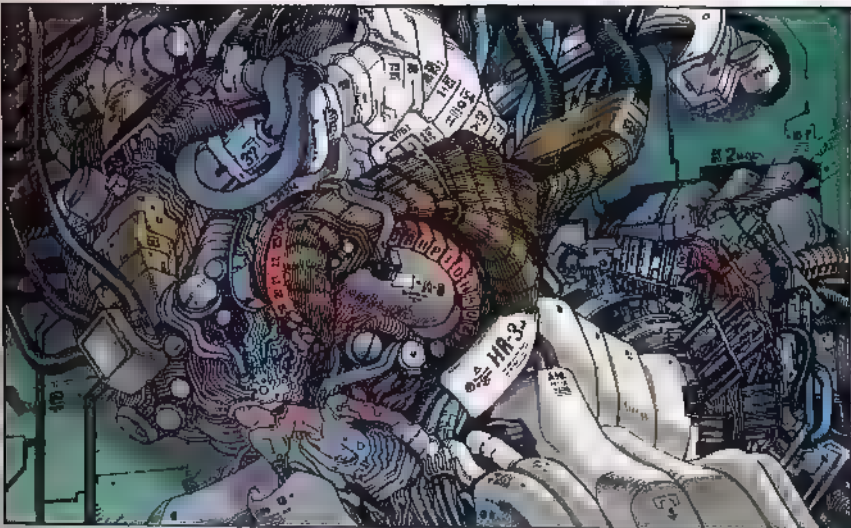


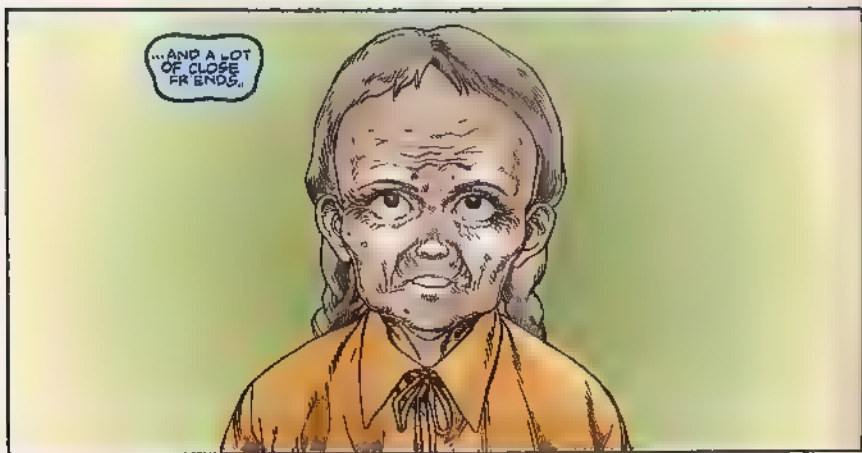
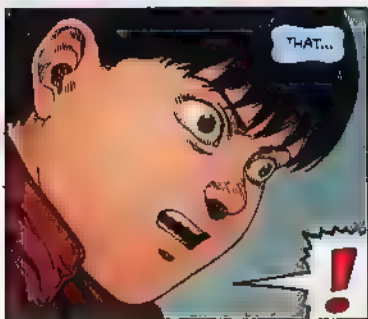
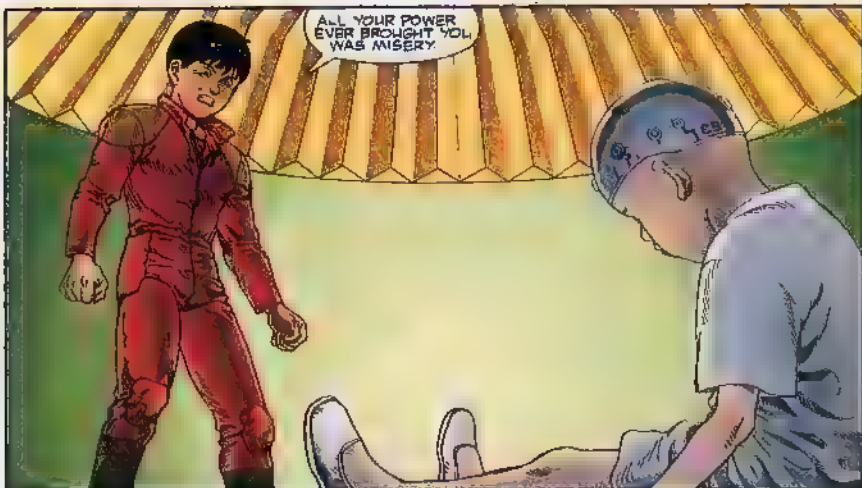




THIS IS THE
FIRST ROOM IN
WHICH THEY
HOUSED THE
CHILDREN WHO
SHOWED THE
SIGNS...







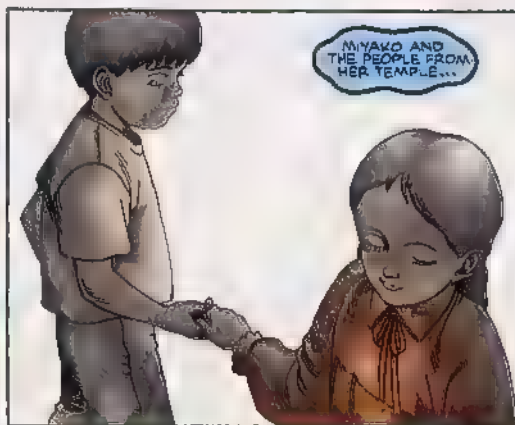


"WHO CAN
COMMUNICATE
WITHOUT
WORDS."

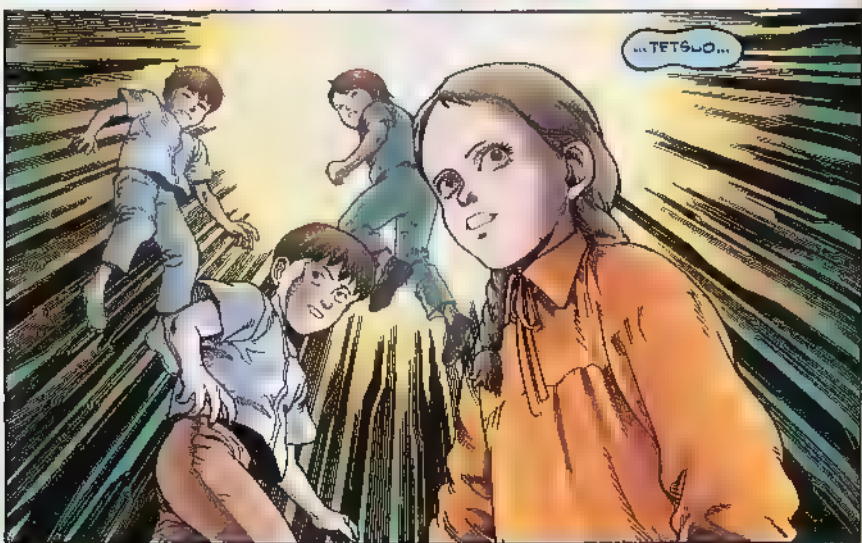
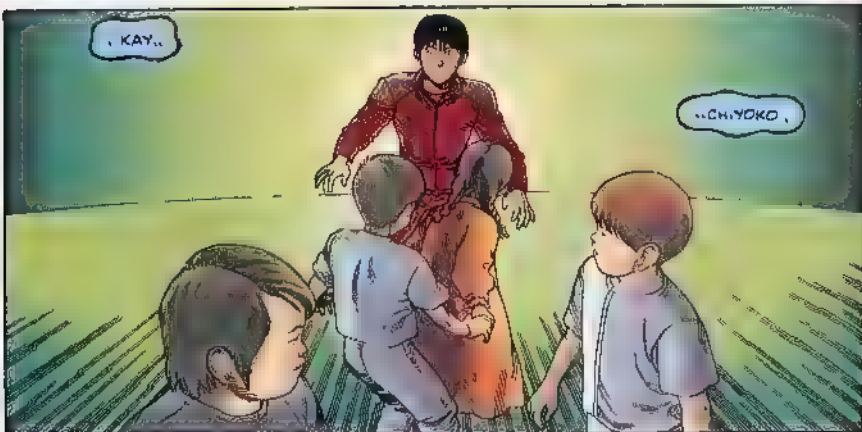
"SPEAKING
TO EACH OTHER'S
SPIRITS."



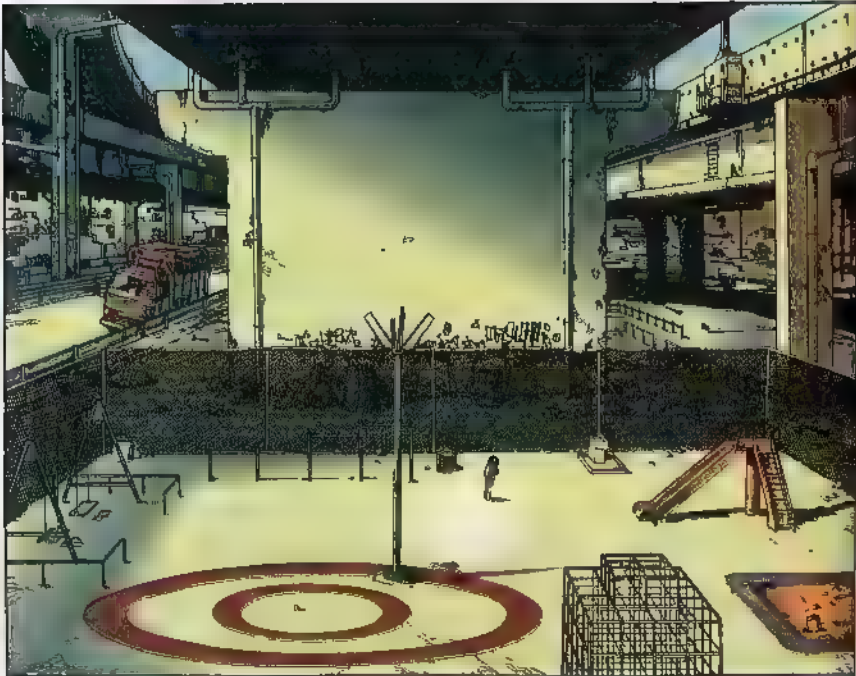
"JUST WHO
ARE YOUR
FRIENDS?"

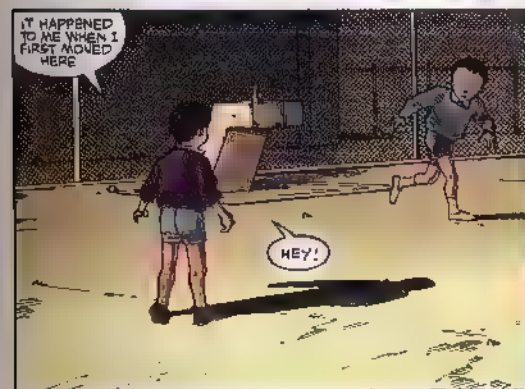
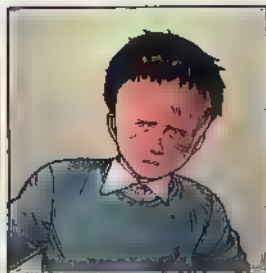


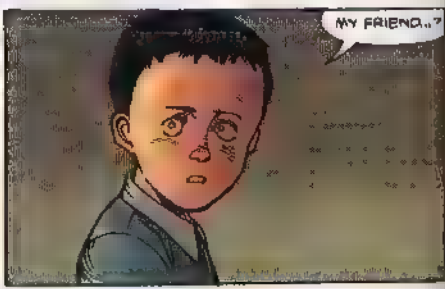
"MIYAKO AND
THE PEOPLE FROM
HER TEMPLE..."

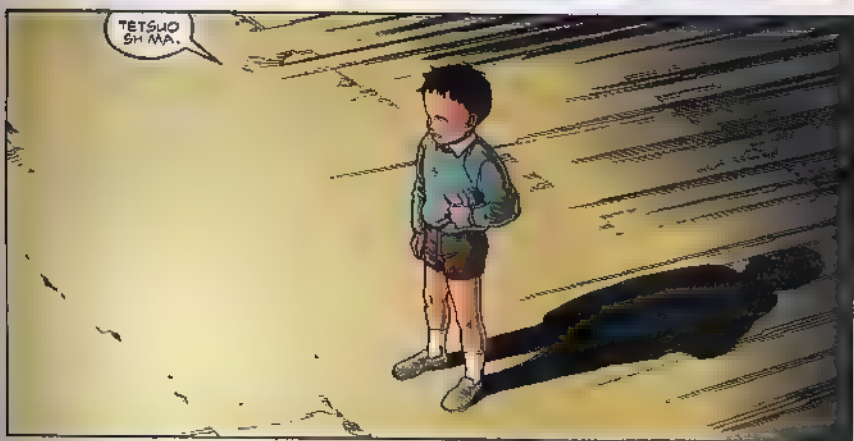
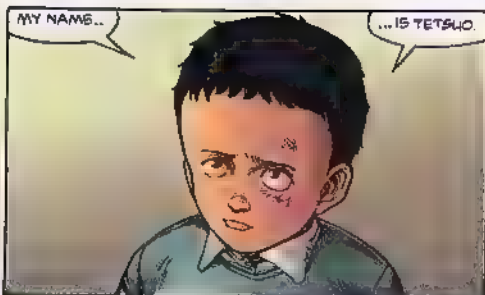


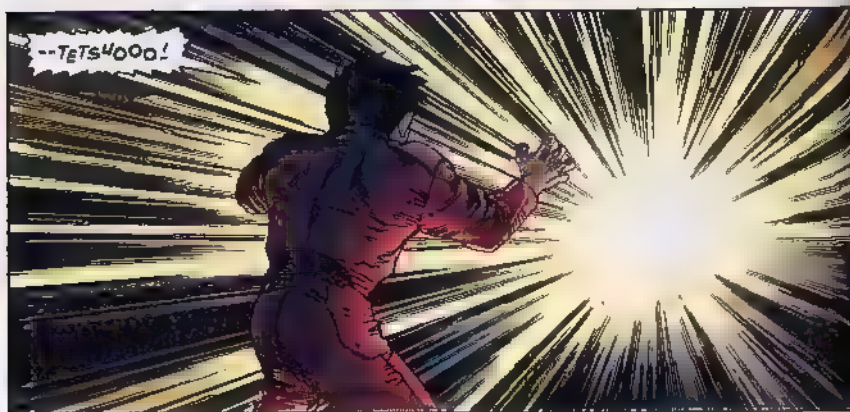
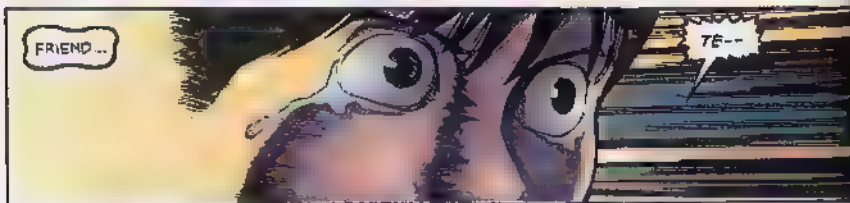






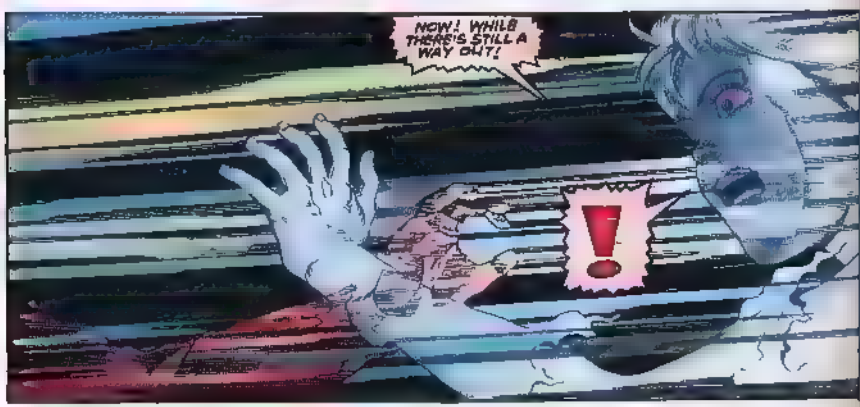
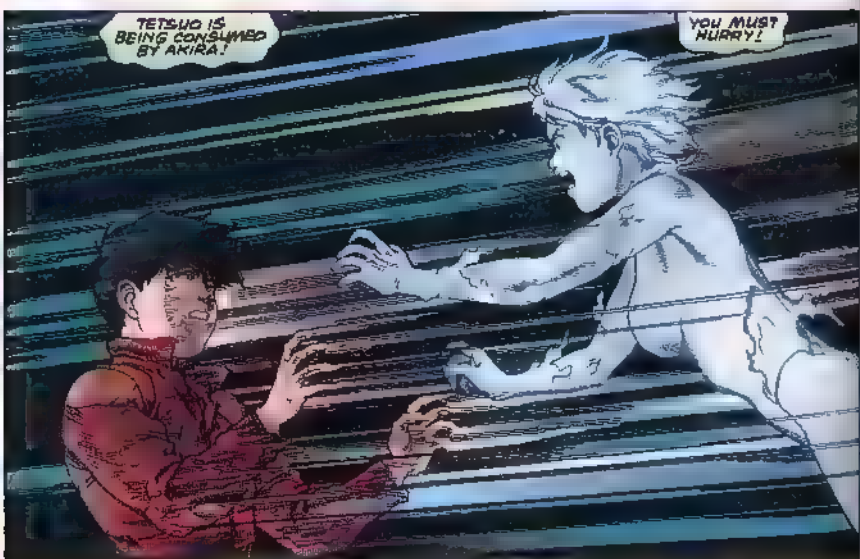
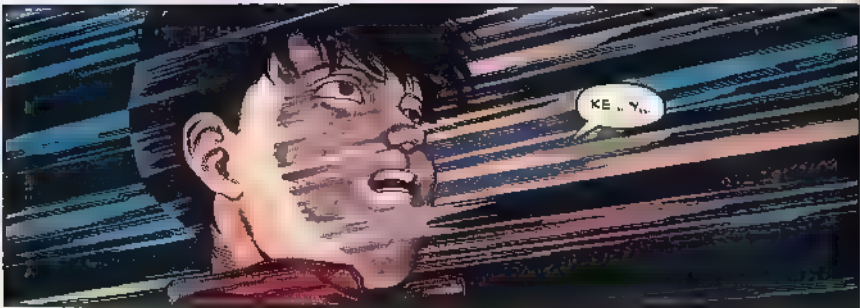


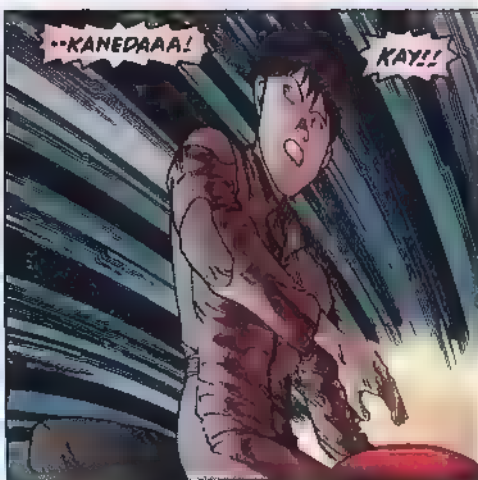
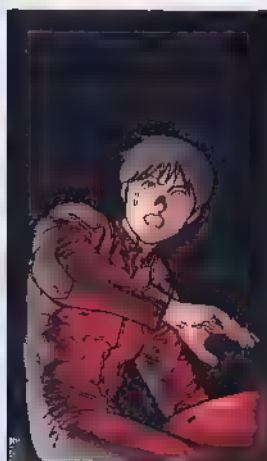
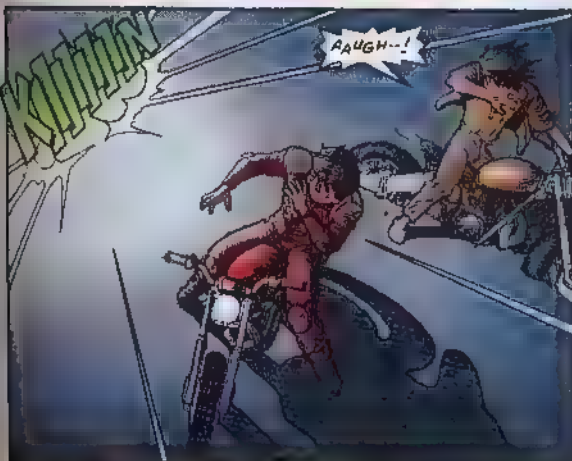


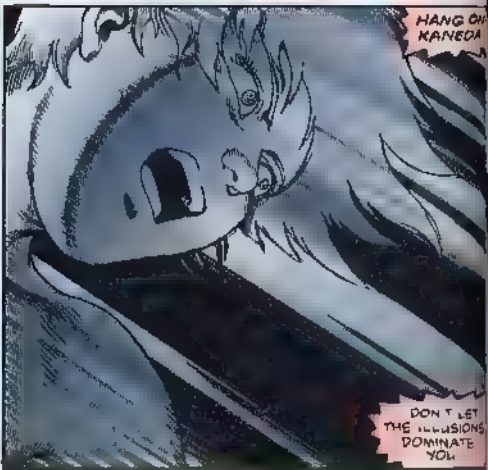
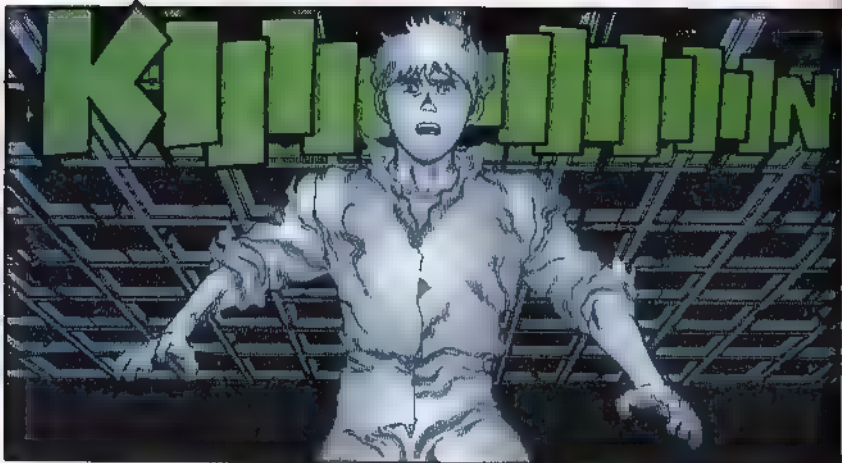


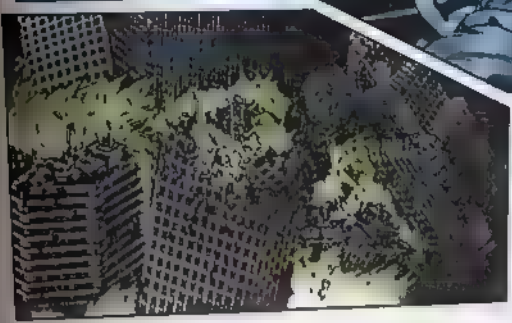
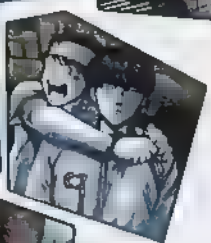
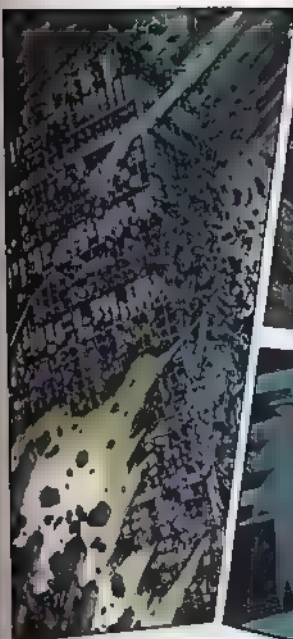


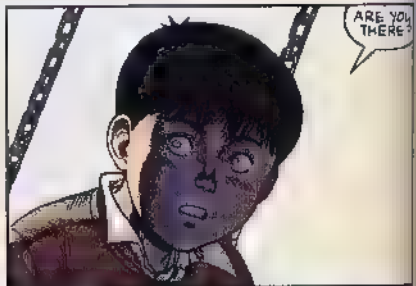
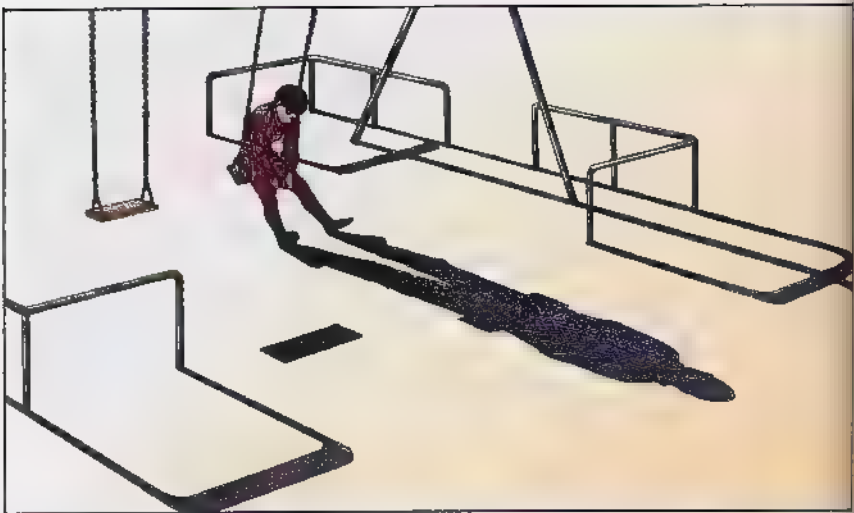


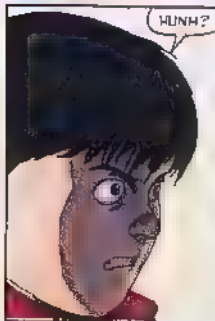
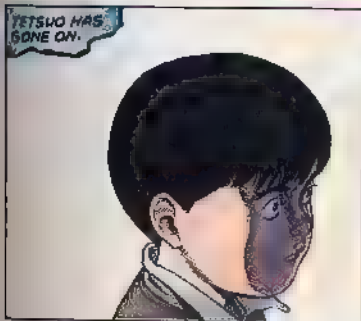
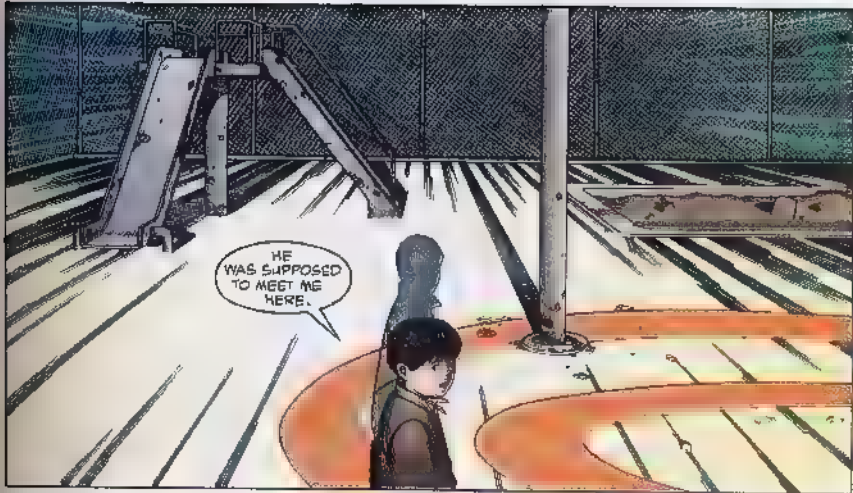


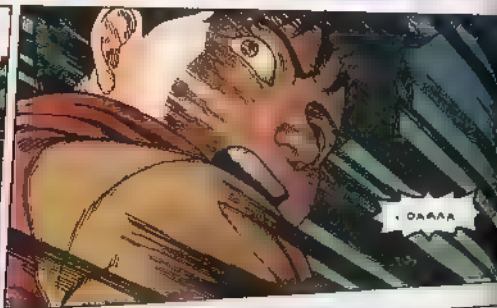
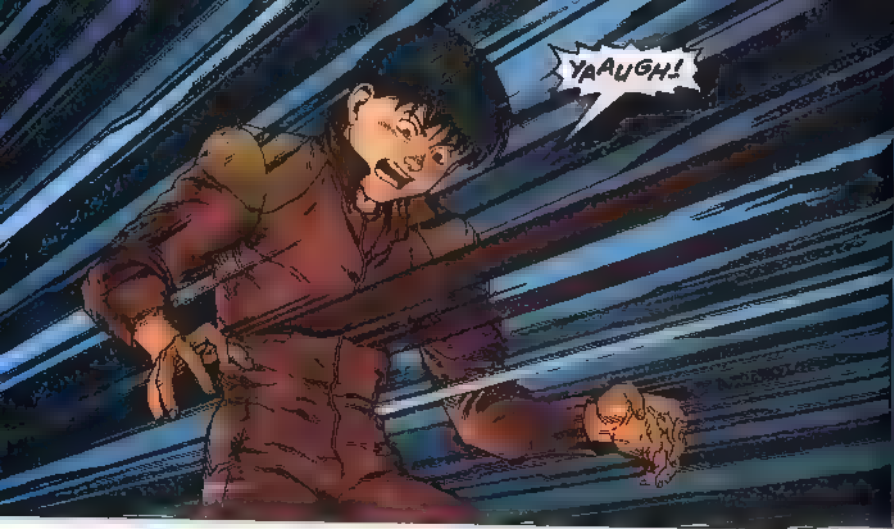




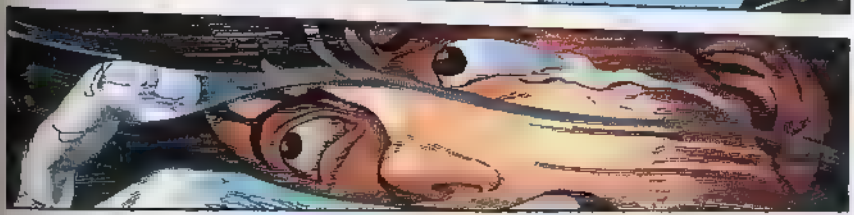
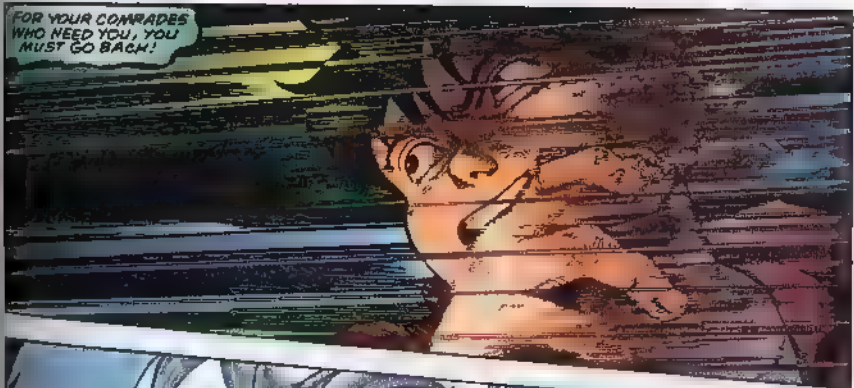


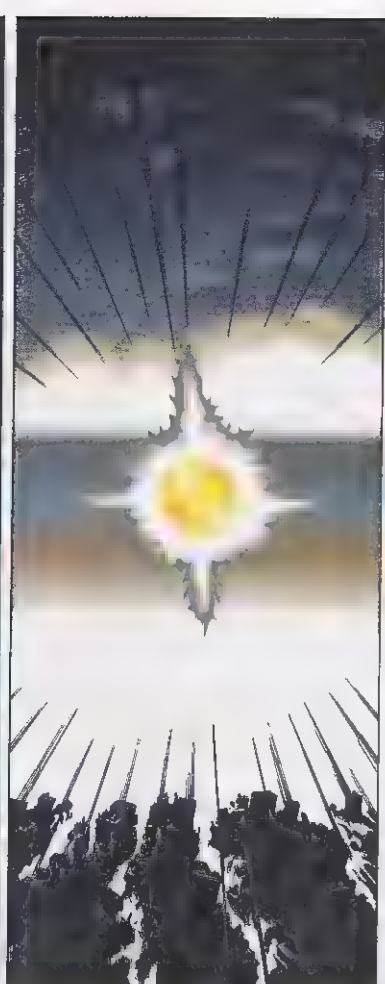


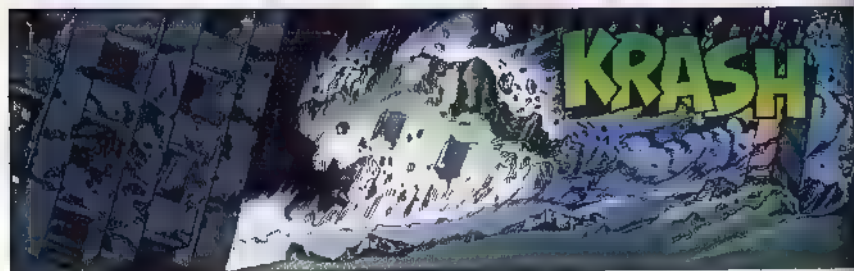
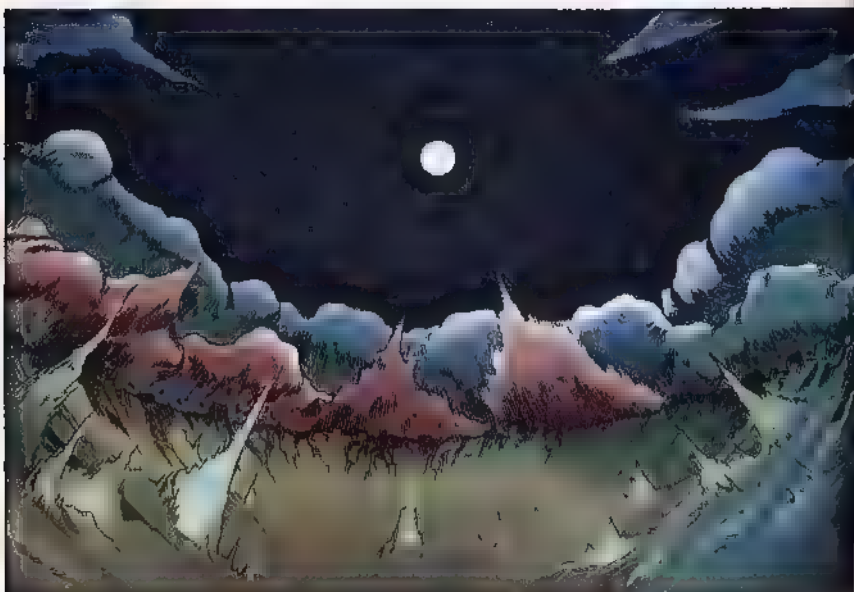




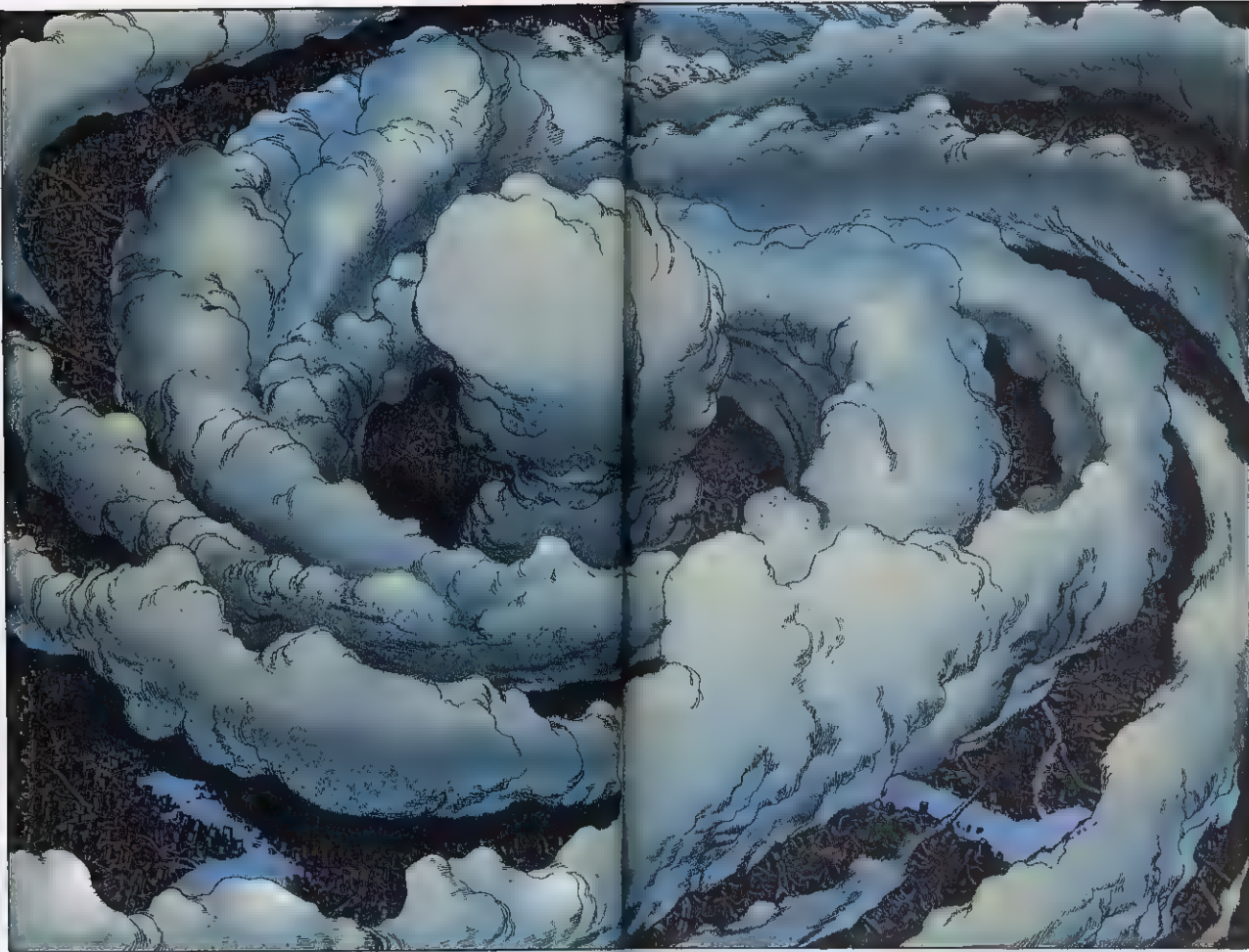
FOR YOUR CONRADES
WHO NEED YOU, YOU
MUST GO BACK!

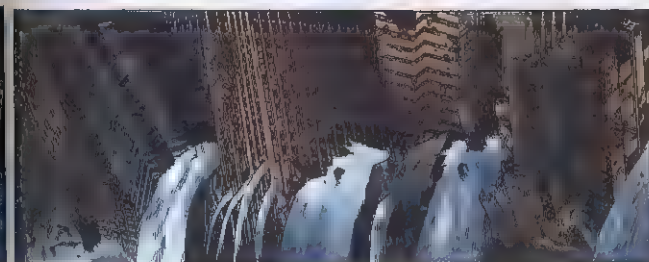
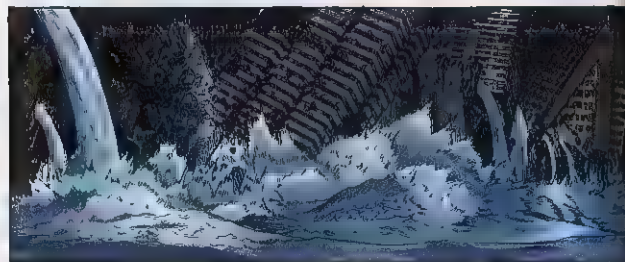
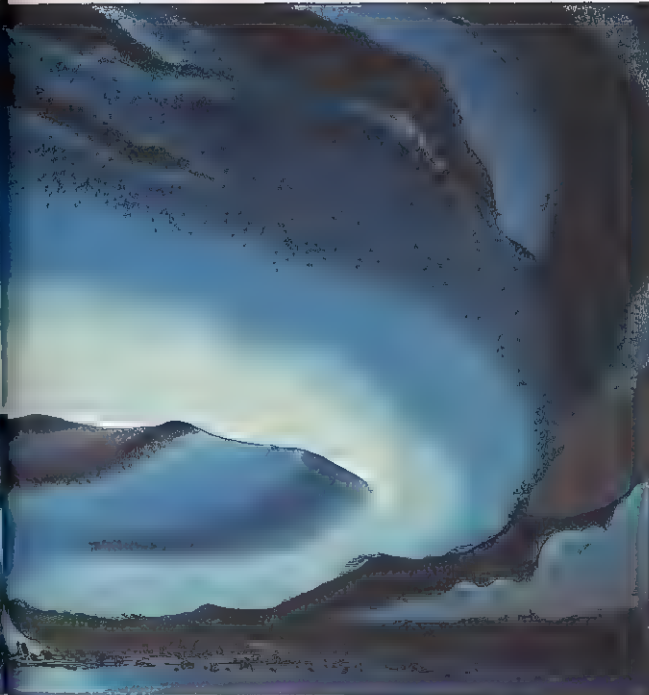
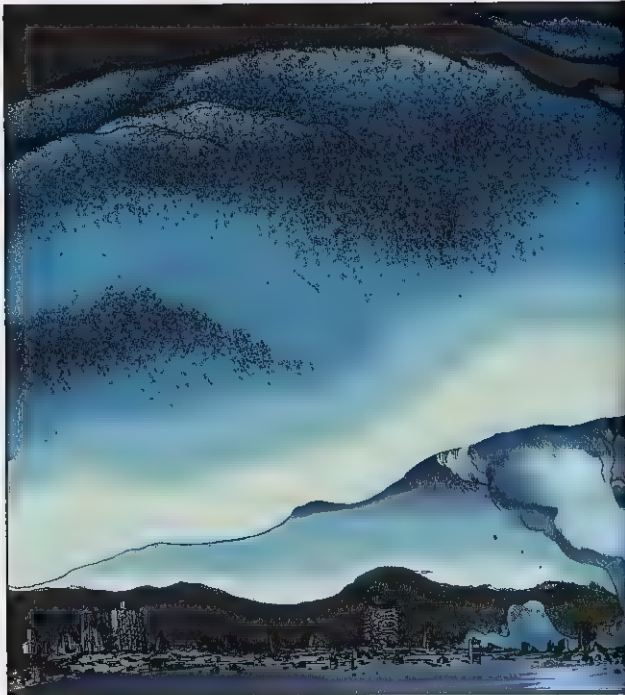


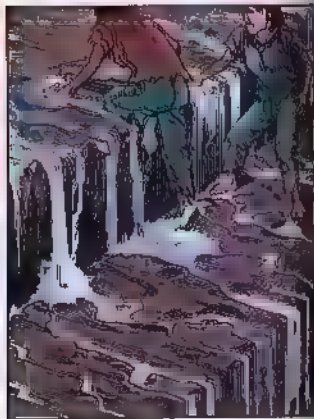
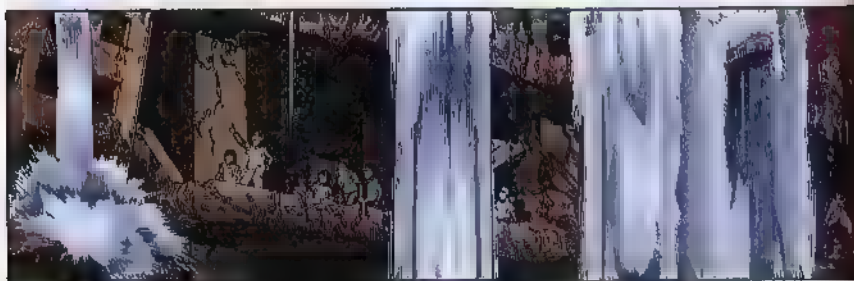
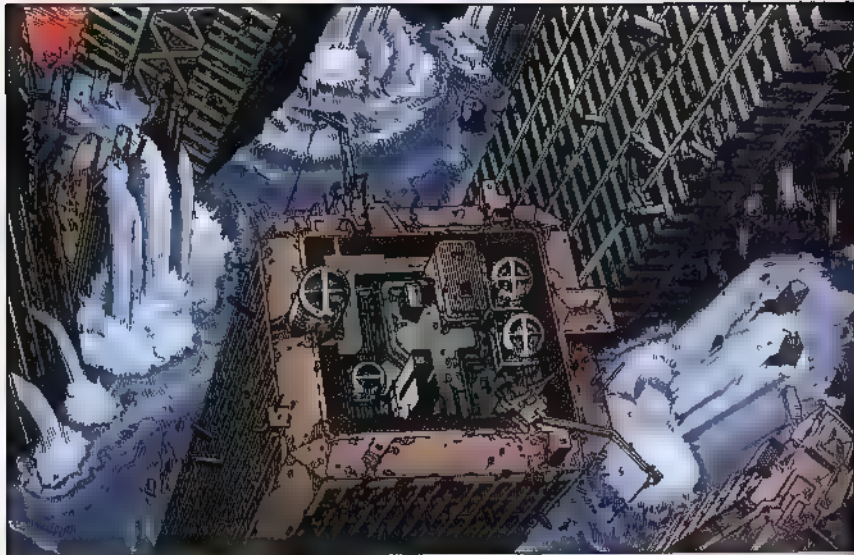


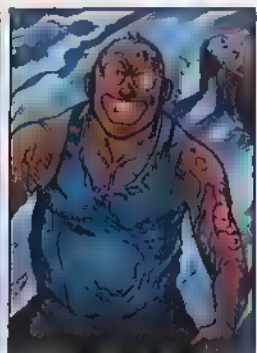
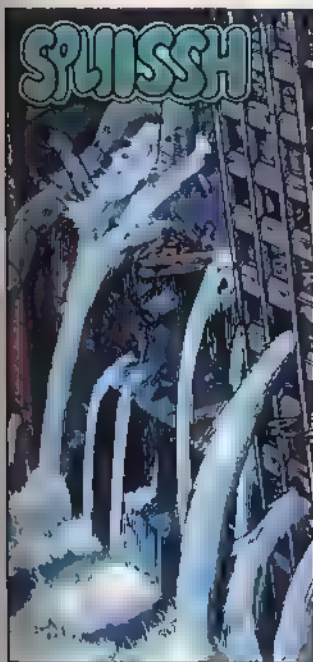
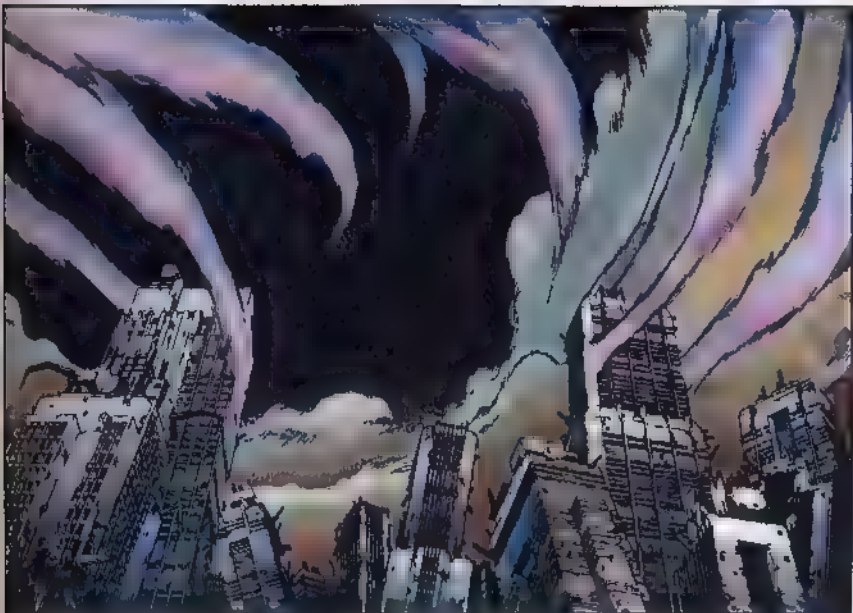


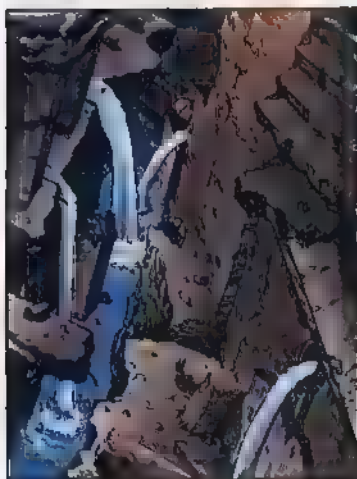
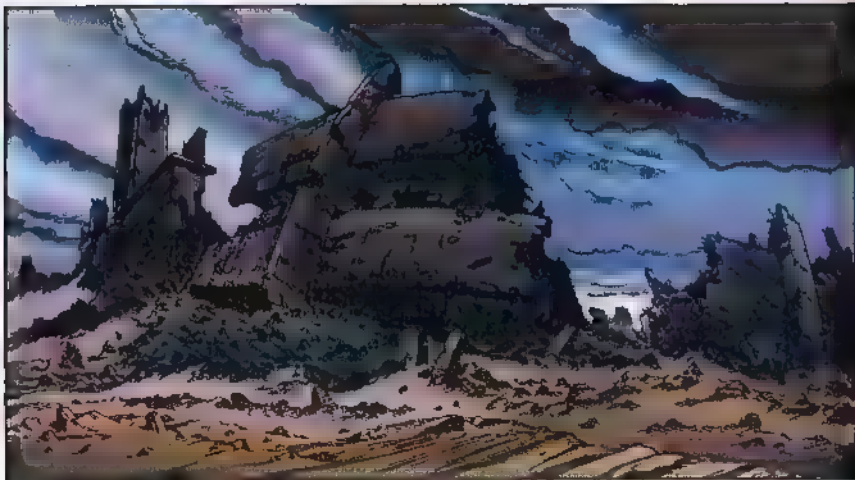


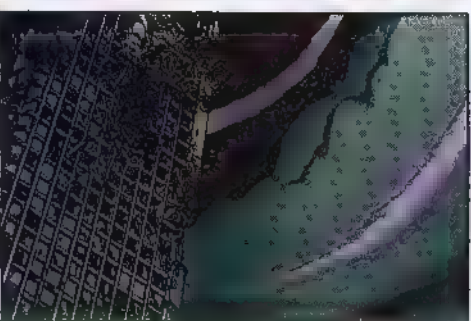
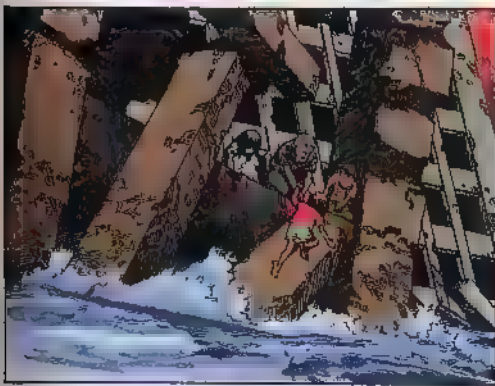
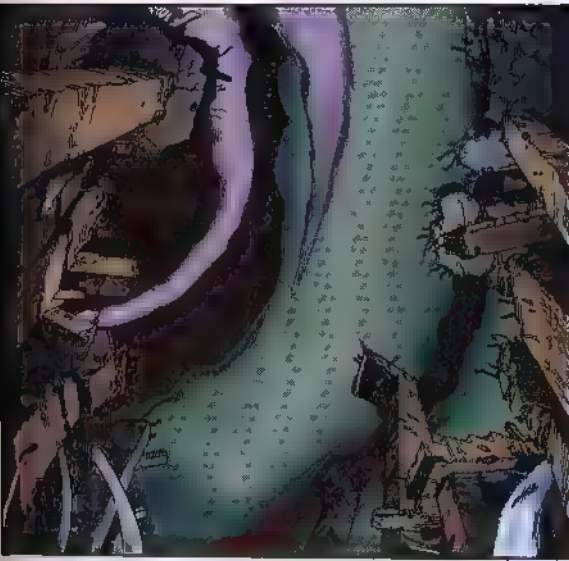


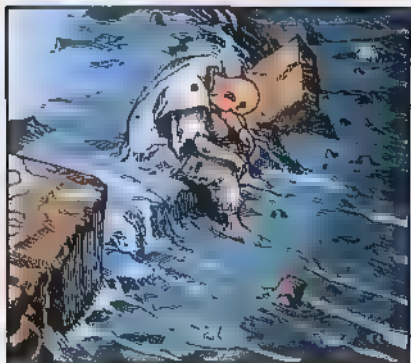
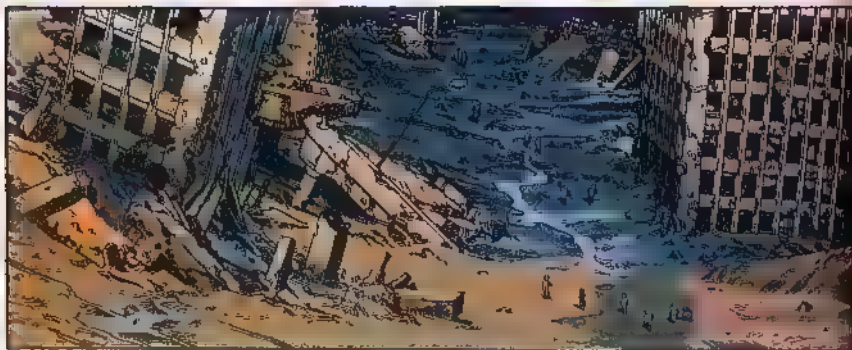
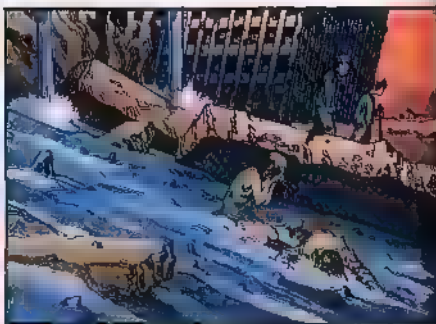




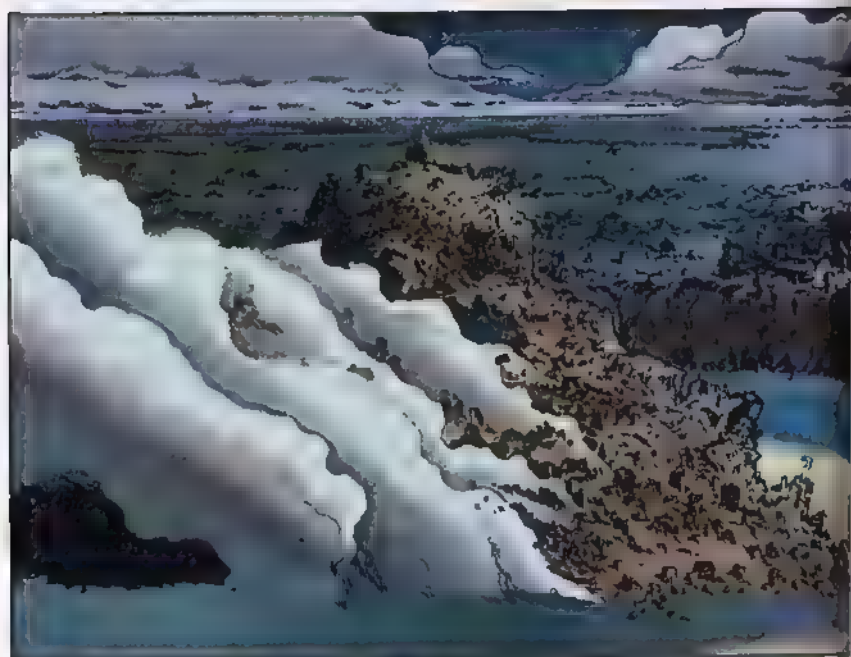




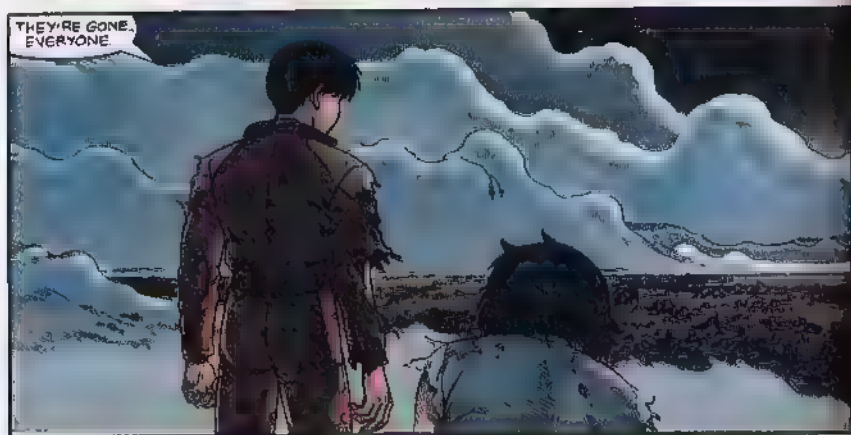
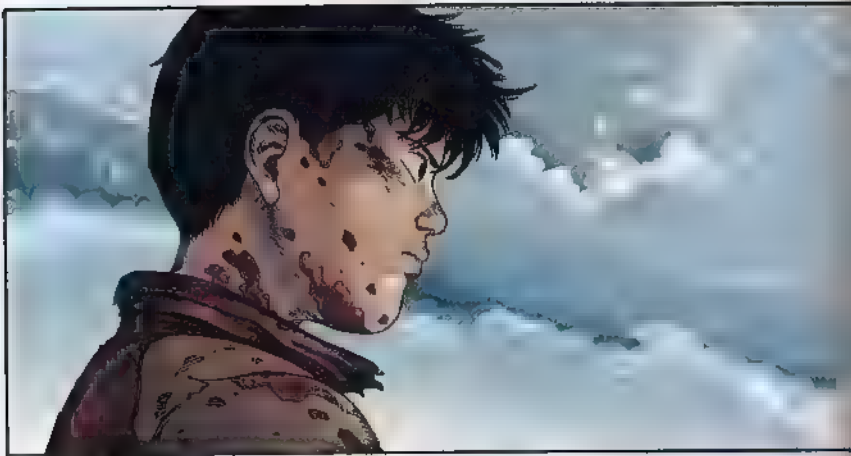


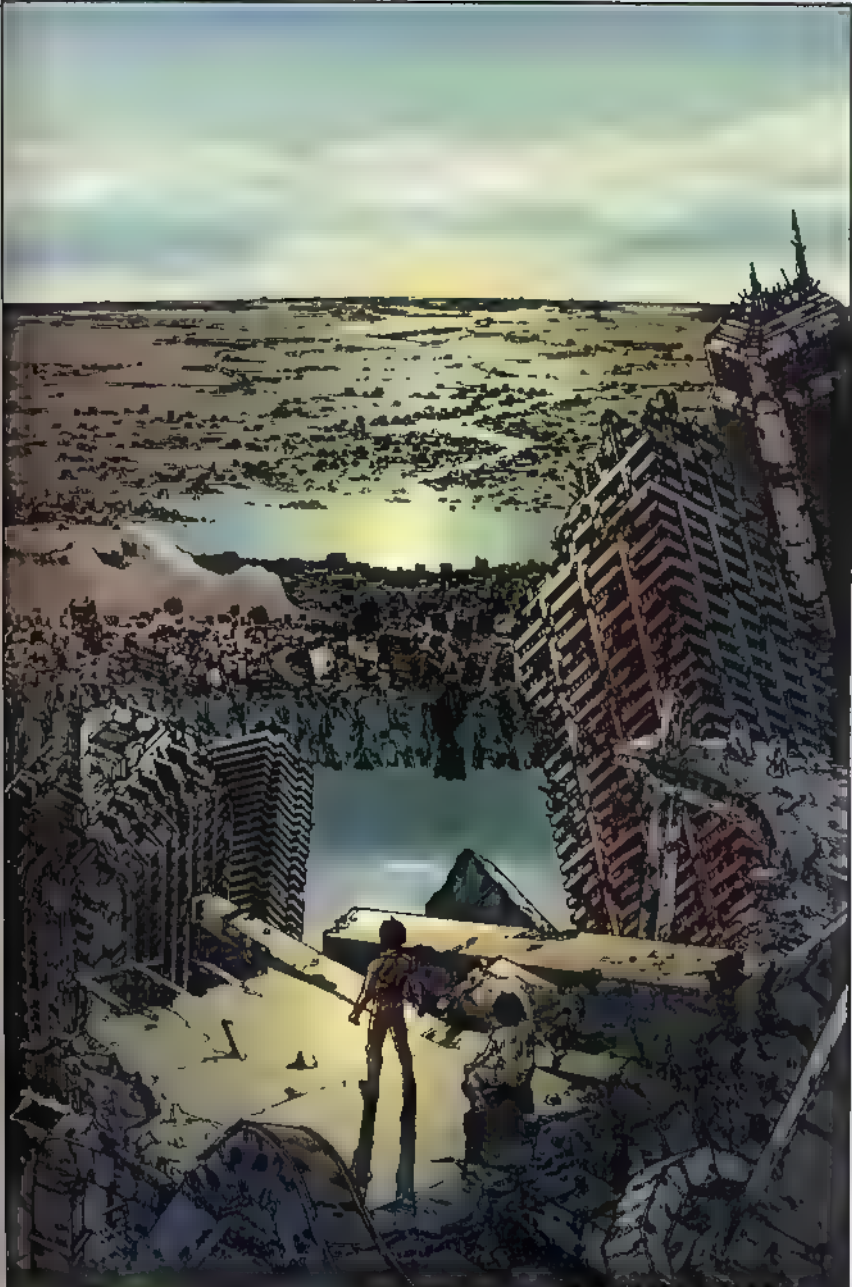












NEXT ISSUE: THE FINAL CHAPTER



AKIRA

TRIBUTES

FEATURING WORKS BY:

MARK TEXEIRA

JOE DUFFY

KENT WILLIAMS



YAMAGATA!

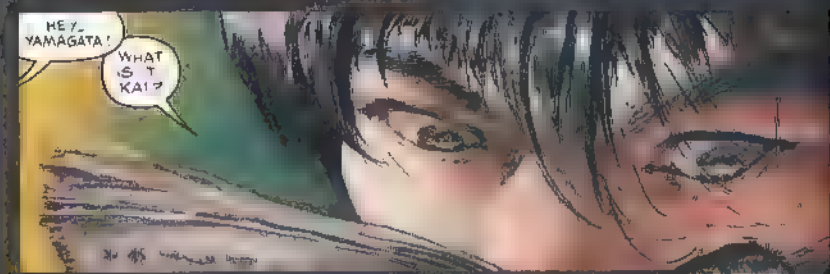
FINAL BETS

JO DUFFY
WRITER
MARK TEXEIRA
ARTIST



HEY,
YAMAGATA!

WHAT
IS IT
KAI?



WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE
IN ANOTHER
WORLD

STUDYING
THE RACING FORM
TRYIN' T FIGURE
WHO LOOKS GOOD IN
THE F.F.T.H?



CAN'T IT WAIT
IF WE AREN'T IN
CLASS BEFORE THE
LAST BELL WE'RE
GONNA GET
NA LED



I'M SURPRSED 'OL'RE
EVEN THINKING ABOUT
STUFF LIKE THAT
CONSIDERING
WHAT WE'RE LIP
AGAINST

HEY, I'M
A MAN OF THE
WORLD. I'VE GOT MY
PRIORITIES

TONIGHT'S FIGHT LL
GET MY TOTAL ATTENTION
TONIGHT, BUT FOR NOW
I'M CONCERNED WITH THE
SOD..

.. I MEAN
THE TURDS

YOU
MEAN THE
TURE

YEAH
WHAT YOU
SAID

KAI
YAMAGATA. WHAT'S
THE WORD?

I WANT
THIRTY BUCKS
WORTH

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU TRYIN' T'PULL?
MY MONEY SHOULD BUY MORE THAN THAT.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND THESE DAYS
TETSUO WANTS ALL THE DRUGS HE
CAN GET. AND WHEN A GUY WHO
CAN EXPLODE YOUR HEAD JUST BY
LOOKIN' AT IT ASKS YOU FOR
SOMETHING..

YOU LET
HIM HAVE
IT.



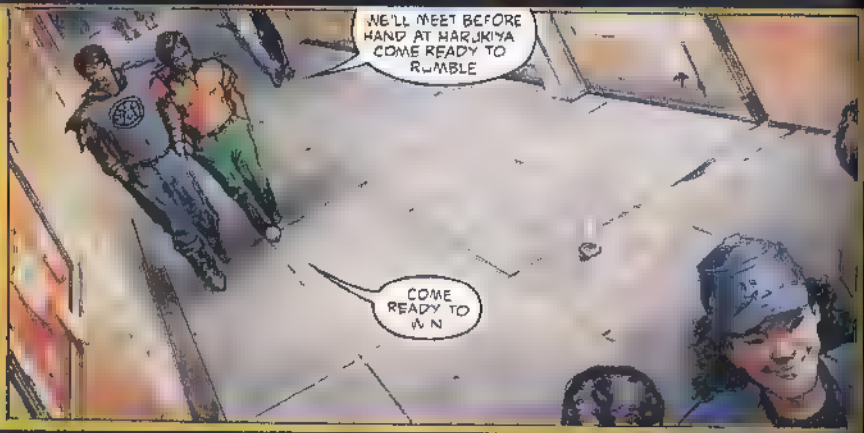
HOW MANY
GANGS ARE
LINED UP FOR
TONIGHT?

ALL OF THEM.
EVERY BIKER IN NEO TOKYO
AGAINST THAT ADDICT, TETSUO,
AND HIS GANG OF CLOWNS



AND
KANEDA'S OUR
LEADER SO
WE'RE GONNA
KICK THE R
BUTTS.

YEAHH



WE'LL MEET BEFORE
HAND AT HARUKIYA
COME READY TO
RUMBLE

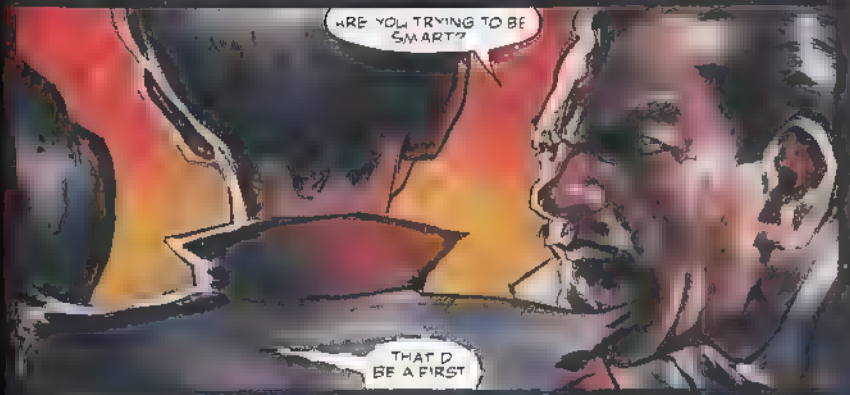
COME
READY TO
WIN



MISTER
YAMAGATA, CLASS
IS ABOUT TO
START

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
LOITERING IN THE
HALLWAYS?

NOTHIN
I AIN'T NO
LOITER BUG



ARE YOU TRYING TO BE
SMART?

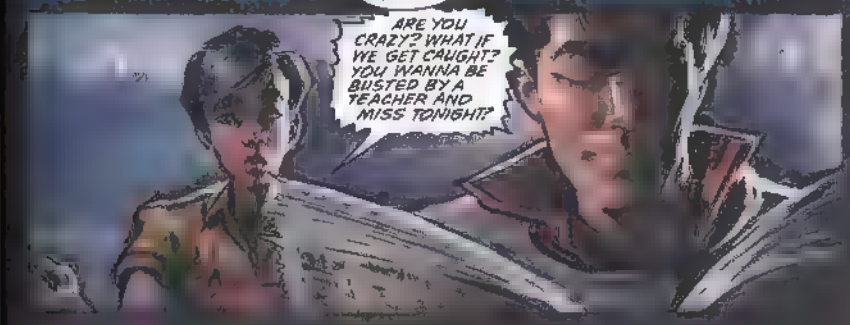
THAT'D
BE A FIRST



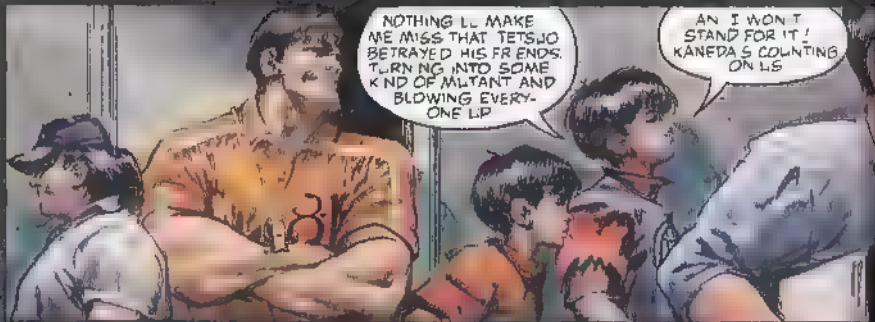
NO, SIR! I'M HEADING
RIGHT TO CLASS

EXCELLENT

...AS
SOON AS I
GET A BET
DOWN



ARE YOU
CRAZY? WHAT IF
WE GET CAUGHT?
YOU WANNA BE
BUSTED BY A
TEACHER AND
MISS TONIGHT?



NOTHING LL MAKE
ME MISS THAT TETSUO
BETRAYED HIS FR ENDS.
TURN NG INTO SOME
KND OF MLYTANT AND
BLOWING EVERY-
ONE UP

AN I WON T
STAND FOR IT!
KANEDA S COUNTING
ON US



AHA.
WHATEVER
THOSE LOW-
LIES ARE UP
TO THEY WON T
GET AWAY
WITH T
WH LE I'M
AROUND

YAMAGATA



JOHJ

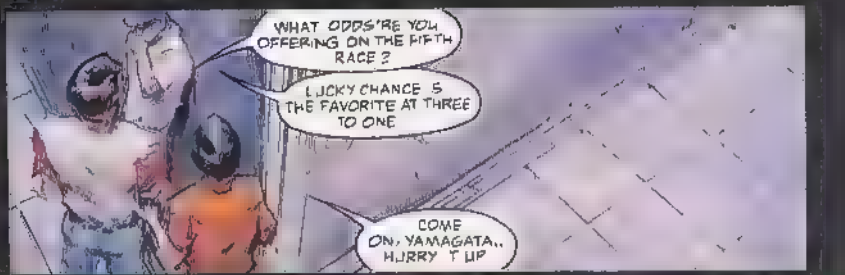
JAWS.



JAWS!

T S MR TAKABA!


THE GYM
TEACHER FROM
HELL!



WHAT ODDS'RE YOU
OFFERING ON THE FIFTH
RACE?

LUCKY CHANCE IS
THE FAVORITE AT THREE
TO ONE

COME
ON, YAMAGATA..
HURRY T UP



WHAT'S THE
WORD ON SHOOTING
STAR?

A LONG SHOT
F T WINS IT LL
PAY OFF FIFTY TO
ONE


ALL
RIGHT!

TEN BUCKS
SHOOTING STAR
TO WIN



IT'S YOUR
FUNERAL

YOU WISH

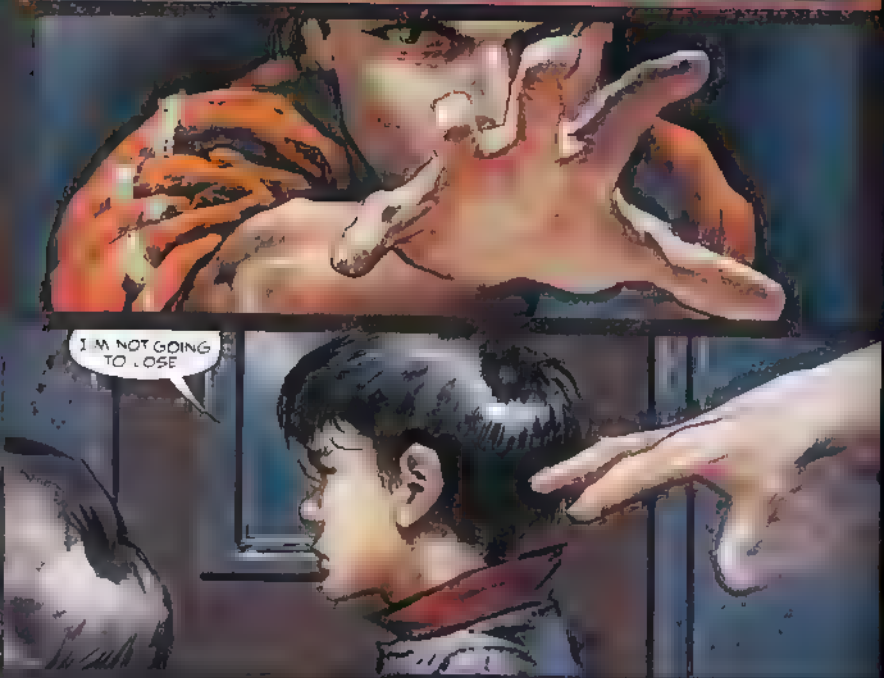
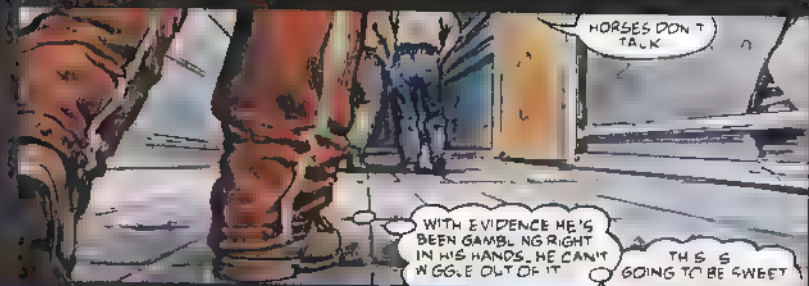


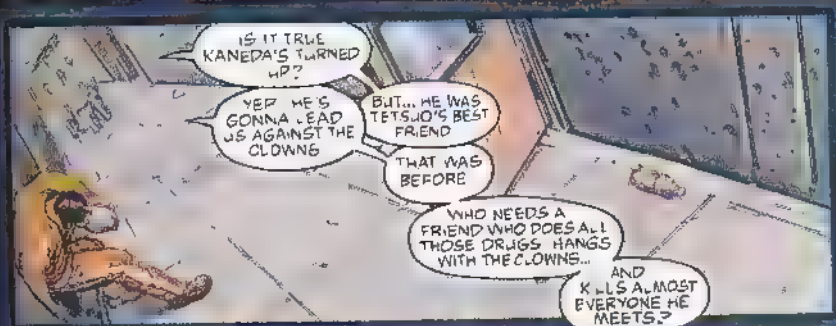
PLEASURE DOING
BUSINESS W TH
YOU

ARE YOU
CRAZY?

NAW I GOT A P.
STRAIGHT FROM
THE HORSE S
ASS

MOUTH



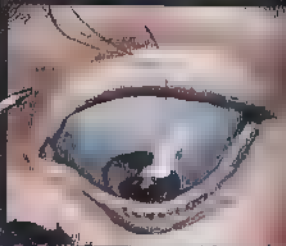
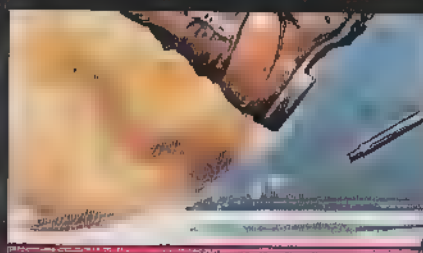




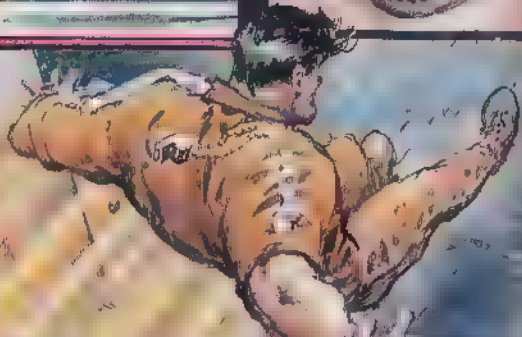
THE RACING PAGES?

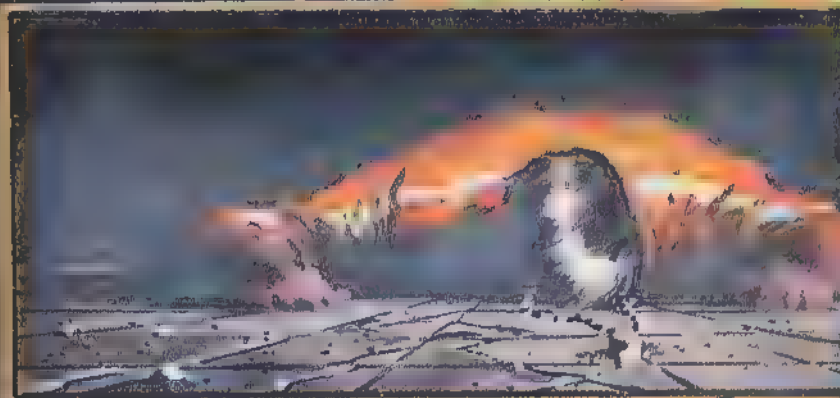
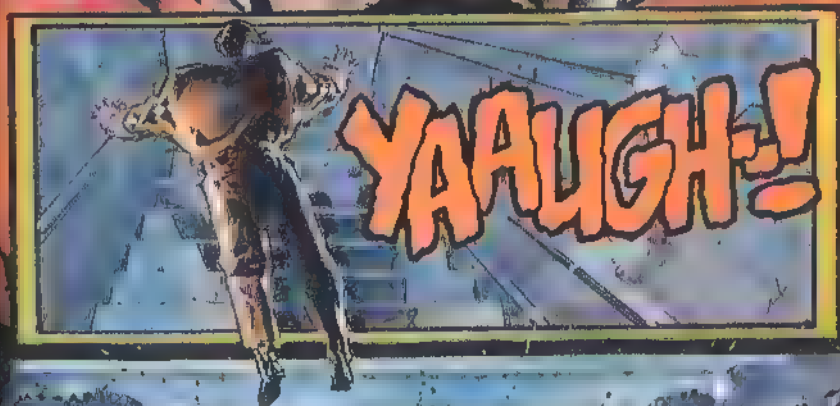
WHO DO YOU LIKE FOR TODAY?

NOW!



NO...





SHOOTING STAR'S GONNA
PAY OFF BIG'

I COULD
FEEL IT FROM
THE MINUTE I
GOT OUT OF
BED.



TODAY'S
MY LUCKY
DAY

TE...TETS...YOU
MOTHER.

YA--!

YOU'RE
GONNA
DIE!!

AIEEE!

SPLUTCH



YAMAGATAA!!!



PUFFE

PUFFE

PUFFE



**NEO TOKYO
SPORTS**
SHOOTING STAR WHIS FIFTH RACE, PAYS
OFF FIFTY TO ONE...

THE END



DAVE
GIBBONS
1993



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There are secrets deep within the human soul that are at once divinely wonderful... and insanely terrifying. Journey with Kaneda, a young biker-turned-warrior, as he plumbs the depths of mystery in Neo-Tokyo. Young children are coddled and nurtured before being fed to experiments that will open their minds to the power of the cosmos. A young boy named Tetsuo stands alone on an inner-city playground, searching for a friend, wary of dangerous gangs lurking in the shadows. Fierce energies tear at the fabric of reality to reveal the wondrous next step in man's evolution.

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